

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR CONTINUOUS TREATMENT OF COPPER  
SULPHIDE CONTAINING ORE BY BIOLOGICAL LEACHING

ABSTRACT

5 The invention concerns a method and a device for treating copper sulphide  
containing ore, comprising a step of biological leaching whereby the minerals are  
subjected in reactors (1) in cascade arrangement, wherein the temperature is  
10 maintained between 75°C and 85°C to the action of a bacterial culture, which  
comprises a thermophilic bacterium of the Sulfolobus type, leading to solution  
heat treating of the copper. The method is characterized in that, during said  
biological leaching step, the treatment is uninterrupted, the medium containing the  
bacterial culture being continuously mechanically agitated to ensure oxygenation  
15 thereof, and suspension of the solid elements, and the solid mass proportion of  
the culture medium is maintained above 10%.

Translator's Note: The following legend appears in the single Figure:

FIRST STEP BIOLOGICAL LEACHING

SECOND STEP PRECIPITATING IRON  
ELIMINATING IRON IN SOLUTION AND FILTERING  
EXTRACTION

THIRD STEP ELECTROLYSIS